



2020/21 Year In Review

WHAT A YEAR!

This will be a year we will not soon forget. It is easy to get caught up in thinking about all of the things we missed out on this past year. Instead, I would like to take this opportunity to capture all of the things we were able to accomplish during this unprecedented time.

- **Mothers' Guild Clubs** - A big thank you to all of our Club Chairs for their out-of-the-box thinking. We opened our Mothers' Guild clubs to ALL NDP moms during August and September. Our goal was to provide virtual friendship and fellowship while continuously supporting the Saints Back Safely plan. We even added two new clubs, Golf and Game, to provide more opportunities to gather safely.

NDP 2020/21 Mothers' Guild Club Chairs

- **Book Club - Stephanie Chamberlin and Laurie Kearney**
- **Foodie (& Wine!) Club - Tina Curran and Lauren Makin with Jodi Kaye, Regina Spokas and Pam Simon**
- **Game Club - Arti Short and Cheri Gould**
- **Golf Club - Monica Fenton**
- **Hiking Club - Amy Lahr with Sheila Doherty**
- **Faith Formation** - Faith formation is the foundation of all we do at NDP. The Mothers' Guild is honored to support all of the Faith Formation activities: Adoration, Daily Mass, Rosary and the NDP Prayer Mom Group. A heartfelt thanks to our **Spiritual Coordinator, Jill Nagel**, for her flexibility and leadership this year. We saw a tremendous increase in the number of mothers at all of the Faith Formation events and activities. And a special thanks to Father Kurt Perera for all of his support and guidance.
- **Senior Parking Lot Party** - There is nothing more fun (or hotter) than our traditional Senior Parking Lot Painting Parties in August of each year. This year was no exception. If you haven't already then go check out all of the creative personalized parking spaces in the senior lot. Huge thanks to **Committee Chairs, Susan Matura and Narda Smith Quagliata** for their always cool leadership, and this year, for helping package the Senior T-shirts for distribution at the Parking Lot Parties.
- **Used Uniforms** - A favored event at NDP and one we were so happy to help with. Big thanks to **Used Uniform Chairs Merritt Rains and Wendy Paul with Melinda Vines and Laurie Kearney** for all their help with the used uniform donation drives



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and sales this year. Again going outside-of-the-box to find ways to give our community what they want and need.

- **Admission Information Evenings** - Traditionally our Admission Information Evenings are hosted by NDP families in their homes. This year NDP took the AIE sessions on campus and welcomed 8th grade families from around the valley. Mothers' Guild is always honored to assist with these intimate evenings. Thank you to all of the NDP Families who helped host on campus this year.
- **Mombassadors** - This committee is near and dear to me and it is the heart of Mothers' Guild. I am so pleased with the dedication and work our Mombassador Chair, Jen Hartley, and Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy Paul, put into making this much-needed committee, especially during a world pandemic, a reality. Mombassadors help "mother" our community. This committee is composed of dedicated, warm, and friendly Mothers' Guild members who welcome prospective, new and transfer families to the NDP, answer any questions they may have, provide reminders about NDP and MG events and activities throughout the school year and help where needed. They helped all of our new and transfer moms this past year and are already "mothering" the Class of 2025. Thank you to Jen, Wendy and all of the Mothers' Guild Mombassadors. I am so very proud of all of you.
- **Transfer Moms Rise Up** - We held our first virtual Transfer Moms Rise Up, at the beginning of each semester, to give transfer moms a chance to meet one another, ask questions, hear from NDP Administration and the Mothers' Guild Executive Board and learn about our amazing Mombassador program. Heartfelt thanks to **Jen Hartley, Mombassador Chair** for all she did to help us pull this off in record time.
- **New Moms Mixer** - We held a virtual New Mom Mixer to allow all Freshmen and Transfer moms a chance to get connected, ask questions and learn about our Mombassador program. A big thanks to **Wendy Paul, Volunteer Coordinator**, for all off her assistance and always cheerful approach.
- **Mindful Mothers** - We created and launched a mental health speaker series focused on the concerns moms have especially during a world pandemic. Our guest speakers included: **Father Kurt Perera, Kristen Garcia, Kristen Polin of NotMyKid and a panel of NDP Momprenuers** who work in the health and beauty and/or self-care industries.
- **Fall Member Webinar** - We were able to rise to the demands of our new norm and held our annual Welcome Back event with a new twist, a webinar featuring **Adam L. Brooks**.
- **NDP Golf Tournament** - Over 20 NDP Mothers' Guild members volunteered their time at the 19th Annual NDP Golf Tournament at Troon North. Thank you to all who



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donated to the auction and volunteered. We love supporting our NDP Advancement Department initiatives and raising money for the Saints Fund. It's what mothers do!

- **Class Socials** - We were able to host our beloved class socials in December and March/April. Although we had to limit attendance due to COVID, we enjoyed seeing everyone who could join us. A big thank you to this year's Class Social Chairs.

NDP 2020/21 Class Social Chairs

- **Class of 2021 - Suzie Jazwin, Melissa Lehman and Sarah Jaquint**
- **Class of 2022 - Lisa Behm and Gabi Popo**
- **Class of 2023 - Megan Hackbarth and Kristen Sullivan**
- **Class of 2024 - Jennifer Jacobs and Delia Misselbrook**
- **NDP Families In Need** - We know the strain so many of us were under during the lock-downs, quarantines, and strict guidelines so we put our Christian Service to work right at NDP. We were able to assist several NDP Families In Need this past Christmas with major gift cards from our NDP Scrip program. A big thank you to **Karin Dechant, Suzanne Kramer and Jennifer Wetzler** for giving this program all their heart.
- **NDP Faculty & Staff Appreciation** - We went above and beyond to show our NDP Faculty and Staff the Mothers' Guild love this year as they went above and beyond learning to teach online, new technology and how to handle the growing demands of educating our Saints during a world pandemic. We held lunches, provided snacks and plan to shower them with love next week during national Teacher Appreciation Week. A heartfelt thanks to Faculty & Staff Appreciation Chairs, **Missie Lorraine and Amie Rettke**.
- **NDP Faculty & Staff Christmas Raffle** - Another way we showed our gratitude to the NDP Faculty & Staff this year was to host a Christmas raffle. We cannot thank you enough for donating so many wonderful items. From Keurigs to frying pans, gift cards to wine and everything in between. Thank you to **Karin Dechant, Suzanne Kramer and Jennifer Wetzler** for guiding this program and making it a new tradition.
- **NDP Scrip** - If you didn't know what Scrip was before then you sure do now! **Jennifer Wetzler** has done a fabulous job helping us market and organize the Scrip program. It was a major goal for us this year and we appreciate all Jen did to help us achieve it.
- **Saints Store** - Feeling a bit like Goldilocks at the beginning of the year, our Saints Store finally found a space that fit. Huge congrats to **Carey Pauley and Marci Martin** for the re-launch off our very stylish and hip, boutique style Saints Store located in the trailer by the 400 building. We also want to thank them for hosting a



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Saints Pop Up Store at the JV Football game. They plan to host many more in 2021/22 so be on the lookout.

- **Pop up FUNdraisers** - We were always thinking of new and innovative ways to bring our NDP community safely together. Then pop up FUNdraisers popped into our plans. The goal was to provide ways to let our community safely gather while also raising monies for the Saints Fund. A win-win! Huge thanks to **Debbie Douglas, Past-President**, for popping in and setting up: Chipotle, Park Lane Jewelry, Azadi Fine Rugs, Lou Malnati's Pizza, Chick-Fil-A and [Kendra Scott Jewelry at Scottsdale Quarter on May 7&8](#). So far you have helped raise over \$2000 additional dollars for the Saints Fund.
- **Saints 5K** - I love when someone takes one of my crazy ideas and makes it a reality. Our goal this year was to create a "signature" Mothers' Guild Saints Helping Hands event. We wanted to start something that would become a legacy at NDP. I went to Saints Helping Hands Chair, Shannon Donaghey last year with the idea of organizing a virtual 5Ks since we were not on campus yet. Many thanks to Shannon and Shelley Dinges for all of their leg work on the event. And many, many thanks to the NDP Advancement Department for taking the race to the finish line! An amazing team effort by all.
- **Senior 100 Day Countdown and Class of 2021 Yard Signs** - We want to thank the NDP Advancement and Student Affairs Departments for hosting our Senior 100 Day Countdown this year since we were unable to have mom volunteers on campus. We appreciate all they did to help our Seniors kick-off the countdown to graduation and for the beautiful yard signs.
- **Class of 2021 Senior Surprises** - Our Senior Committee Chairs didn't get to host all of their events this year so we brought them all together to plan and help execute monthly surprises for our Seniors in February, March and April. We surprised the Seniors with Valentine's Candy, smoothies from King's Catering along with Cheryl's cookies, and Chick-Fil-A breakfast biscuits. Lots of love and thanks to all of the Senior Committee Chairs who helped us with grace: **Suzie Jazwin, Sarah Jaquint, Melissa Lehman, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Tane Drogran, Jenny Ward, Whitney Pileggi and Tiffany Lambrecht**.
- **Class of 2021 Senior Picnic** - A time honored tradition at NDP and this year was held on campus due to COVID restrictions and we think it was the best yet! The Seniors enjoyed noshing on Dilly's Deli sack lunches, playing games throughout the practice field, listening to music, and cheering on as their fellow classmates took turns trying to dunk good-sporting NDP Faculty & Staff. Fun was definitely had by all. As Seniors left that day they were given sack of goodies representing this past year along with a Cheryl's cookie. Tremendous thanks to the NDP Student Affairs Team



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along with **Senior Picnic Chairs, Tiffany Lambrecht and Melissa Lehman with Brooke Schweigert, Teresa Bush and Nancy LaVoy.**

- **Senior Mom Retreat** - We were so pleased to be able to host our third annual Senior Mom Retreat for the Class of 2021. We typically host this event in February but due to COVID restrictions were finally able to hold it at St. Bernard's on April 15th. Over 50+ Senior moms enjoyed breakfast, an alumni panel, lunch from Arcadia Farms and guest speaker Tracy Martin along with fellowship and friendship. A beautiful day focused on helping Senior moms prepare for graduation and beyond. Such a heartwarming thanks to **Committee Chairs, Suzanne Kramer, Renee Connor, Janal Chantler along with Leanne Odinet, Christina Gaan and Susan Rehorn** for their guiding, giving and grace.
- **Mothers' Guild Member Social** - It truly is virtually impossible to keep us apart! Our one and only in-person all Mothers' Guild Member social was held on April 20th in the NDP Chapel Courtyard. Over 130 members enjoyed personal charcuterie plates, wine, music, much needed mom time, friendship, and fellowship. We were so, so happy to finally come together as a guild and on campus. It was a perfect evening to reunite and rejoice.
- **All Saints Spring Treat** - Mothers' Guild strives to provide all of our Saints with semi-annual treats. This year we were overjoyed to be back volunteering on campus and to give the students a Cane's and Krispy Kreme treat. Heartfelt thanks to **Committee Chairs, Whitney Pileggi and Missie Lorraine, along with Megan Beck, Amie Rettke, Stacey Graninger and Melissa Lehman** for serving up our yummy All Saints Spring Treats.
- **Project Grad** - We are thrilled to be hosting the NDP Project Grad immediately following graduation on May 13, 2021. We are so excited to bring the Class of 2021 together, one more time, for an unforgettable night of fun and memories including Memory Lane Posters. Huge thanks to **Committee Chairs, Suzanne Kramer and Karin DeChant**, and all of their committee chairs and volunteers. It truly takes a village and we appreciate all of you for all you do for our Saints.
- **Bylaws Amendments** - We had some time on our hands thanks to COVID so we put it to good use and modernized the NDP Mothers' Guild Bylaws. Thank you to all who voted on the proposed amendments. They easily passed with a majority of the membership vote.
- **Member Gifts Drive-thru** - We held several drive thru to provide our members with the opportunity to pick up their member gift. This year's included: a Mothers' Guild 32 oz. (Yeti like) tumbler, "Wash Your Damn Hands" hand sanitizer donated by Garrison Brothers Distillery, an NDP Alumni family, NDP lanyard, and \$15 Saints Store voucher (good through the end of the 2020/21 school year). Thank you to



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everyone who helped give the member gifts out, **Wendy Paul, Amie Rettke, Sheila Doherty, and Suzanne Kramer.**

- **Social Media** - We launched the Mothers' Guild Instagram and Facebook pages in January 2020 to help keep us connected while apart. We want to thank all of our faithful followers. If you are on social media then please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for all things Mothers' Guild.
- **Messaging** - From our social media and our newsletter to our forms and emails, we worked on having a consistent message, look and feel this year. We know you receive a lot of information and we want you to be able to easily spot Mothers' Guild communication. Whether it is a sign up genius, invite or email, we don't want you to miss a thing.
- **NDP Family Directory** - We took the NDP Family Directory online this year saving us more than \$2,500 annually and providing quick access via the Mothers' Guild section of the NDP Saints website. Helping to save planet Earth and money...that's what mothers do.
- **Some Administrative Stuff** - We also took the time to organize our Mothers' Guild shared Google drive (yes, we are going paperless!), set up our Mothers' Guild Master Communications Calendar (we expect to be jammin' and don't want to miss a beat in 2021/22), load our Mothers' Guild Master SignUpGenius account and create a template with consistent look and feel for all of our Mothers' Guild marketing and communications.

As you can see...that's quite a lot of accomplishments especially knowing our Mothers' Guild members and volunteers were not on campus for a most of the year. We truly have so much to be thankful for but most of all...our support of the Saints Back Safely plan worked!! Our students went back on campus in October and stayed on campus learning through May. Talk about unprecedented efforts! We appreciate the sacrifice each of you made to help make this happen.

We can't thank you enough for your guiding, giving, grace...and patience! You proved that whether on or off campus, side-by-side or six feet apart, we will continue to support each other and NDP with all our hearts. That's what mothers do! On behalf of the 2020/21 Mothers' Guild Executive Board, thank you so much.

Warmly,

April L. McCracken
2020/21 Mothers' Guild President
Notre Dame Preparatory High School